Annual Report

Westhampton Massachusetts

1997

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1997

DAVID LAPRADE

This year's annual report is dedicated to a man who has dedicated over 29 years to Boy Scouting and the youth of Westhampton. David Laprade quietly stepped aside from Scoutmaster of Troop 209 in June,1997. He had started as a Cub Scout Webelos leader in 1968. After seven years of Cub Scouting, Dave held the position of Assistant Scoutmaster for three years before taking on the role of Scoutmaster. While guiding boys to improve their scouting skills and advance in rank, Dave did the same himself. He completed the Boy Scout Wood Badge training program and then went on to teach portions of it to other leaders. He was elected into the Order of the Arrow, and he was recognized by Great Trails Council with one of Boy Scouting highest distinctions, the Silver Beaver.

During his years as Scoutmaster, Dave has helped over 25 boys, including his own sons Mike and Steve, become Eagle Scouts. And he has helped countless more boys become better young men thanks to their experience in scouting. For his unselfish contribution to the youth of our community, the townspeople of Westhampton express their sincere thanks to David Laprade.

IN MEMORIAM

ROSCOE L. HURD JR.
1923-1998

Roscoe worked for the Westhampton Highway Department for twelve years. After retiring from that position in 1988, he continued as the loader operator at the Landfill. A very familiar figure to townspeople, he wanted to be a friend to all. He will be missed.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Our town government continues to function due to the diligent efforts of our boards, committees and officers. We thank them for their commitment and are confident that others will step forward to serve as the need arises.

As of January 1, 1997, the Board consisted of Diane Kwolek, Chairman, Lydia Omasta, and Roy Van Driesche, Clerk. Margaret Parsons is the Selectmen's Secretary. We would be most remiss if we did not single out our secretary for a special big THANK YOU. Margie can bring up an old file, cite a past similar occasion, and gently keep us legal. The Board continues to meet alternate Mondays at 7PM at the Town Hall.

In January, the Board continued to struggle with the licensing of Jaws Auto Recycling. The Class III license was not issued January 1 and remains under negotiation between Town Counsel and Mr. Baillargeon's attorney at year end. This issue has involved considerable time on the part of various boards, as well as substantial fees for counsel. We, and other boards, will continue to strive to resolve the issues so the business and the abutters can co-exist.

A special Town Meeting was held in January to deal with several issues. The Fire Department had the opportunity to acquire and rehabilitate a used fire truck to replace the 1959 pumper truck at a fraction of the cost of a new truck. A transfer of $3500 was approved for the purchase. Considerable discussion was held regarding the request by the Board of Health for reimbursement for perc test inspections. Some voters were concerned at the loss of revenue to the Town, but it was voted to pay the Board of Health members $18/hour for perc inspections. The Board of Health will

review the fee structure and possibly institute a fee for approval of septic designs to replace the lost revenue. A transfer of $20000 from free cash was approved to fund the contract for the next phase of the Landfill Closure as mandated by the Consent Order issued by the Department of Environmental Protection. The Board of Health has been very active in the ongoing closure process and we appreciate their efforts on this extremely complicated issue. A second Town Meeting later in the year authorized funds for design and permitting of a transfer station. The final choice between a transfer station and curbside trash removal will be made at annual Town Meeting in May 1998.

Another issue, which came to light in January, was the obligation of the town for the dumpsite which was created in 1969 on property owned by Ernest Delisle on Southampton Road. The town used the site for approximately one year before the current landfill was purchased and began operation. In the process of selling their home, the Delisles requested that the town remove the trash so the sale could proceed. After extensive investigation by our Highway Superintendent, the Board of Health, and our landfill engineer, the Board of Selectmen and the Delisles agreed to ask Town Meeting to authorize the Board of Selectmen to purchase the portion of the Delisle property containing the dump site, with a buffer zone and easement for access, for $1.00. The Town agreed to pay the costs of the survey and attorney fees for the transfer, as well as water testing. This was approved at a special Town Meeting on March 17. Initial testing found no contamination of water and sediment. In the purchase/sale agreement, the Town agreed to pay costs for re-testing in ten years and/or at time of any future sale.

Negotiations for the purchase of the Williams house for Town offices resumed in January. The Board agreed to test the septic system as the Williams had agreed to sell at the Town's price, if the

Town paid any costs to repair the septic system. When the system failed, the Board voted to put an article on the annual Town Meeting warrant to reconsider the purchase and increase the appropriation by $6000 to replace the septic system. This was passed at the meeting in May, but the total appropriation for the purchase was later rescinded at the continued Town Meeting in June, following the defeat of a general override question for $153,000 at the annual election.

An All Boards Meeting was held in April with excellent attendance. The main item for discussion was the budget, with the deficit in excess of $200,000. Strategies for overrides were discussed, as well as the need for better communication between boards. These meetings are very helpful and the Board of Selectmen appreciates the great response when a meeting is called.

We were very sorry to have Diane Kwolek leave the Board in June. Diane served two full terms with boundless enthusiasm and energy in an often thankless job. As well as committing herself fully to doing a complete job as Selectman in town, Diane participated at the state level, serving on the Board of Directors on the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association for five years. We miss her energy, humor, and intelligence in handling our town affairs.

Unfortunately, no one came forth to run for the vacancy on the board, which left Lydia Omasta as Chairman and Roy Van Driesche as Clerk until September, when James O'Connor was elected at a Special Election. A relative newcomer to Westhampton, Jim came forth and volunteered when he realized no one was willing to serve. Jim has proved to be an asset with his good business sense and his willingness to learn.

This was our second special election of the year as another was

held July 28 with three override questions totaling $47,525 on the ballot. All three questions were approved.

In our continuing effort to plan for the future of our community, our application to the State Executive Office of Community Development for funding of a study of expanding our tax base was resubmitted and approved, with a $35,000 grant being awarded. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission was hired to work with our Town committee. Results of this project will be presented to the Town in spring 1998.

The Library has successfully finished a Development Plan and we applaud all involved for their commitment to complete this difficult project.

With the rescinding of the Williams house purchase, volunteers took on the reorganization of the Town Hall offices to better accommodate our needs. The main room was emptied, painted, the floor refinished, and the telephone system updated. In September, the Board of Assessors moved their office into the main room, together with the Board of Selectmen, the Building Inspector, and other Town Boards. The room is full, but the arrangement seems to be working out. The Police Department moved out of the storage closet into the former Assessors office. These changes have not solved our space problem, but have relieved the situation temporarily. Our sincere thanks to all those who helped on this project. A special thank you to Jim O'Connor for his donation of a fax machine for the town office.

In October, a dedication of the Westhampton Water Company land donated to the town was held on the town common.

In November, the Board approved a change in the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust agreement regarding retirees.

Employees must be enrolled in the Town's group health insurance at the time of retirement in order to have coverage as a retiree, except under certain emergency situations. In December, the Board authorized the Town Treasurer, as Westhampton's voting representative to the Hampshire County Retirement System, to vote in favor of the Cost of Living Adjustment for retirees, which is now to be funded by the Town, rather than the State.

The Board declared the week of December 7- 13 to be "Have a Heart Week" in support of the Emergency Medical Services fund drive to replace a defibrillator. An overwhelming response from the community allowed the purchase of two new units. Thanks to all!

The Board of Assessors has completed the Town's nine year full list, an enormous undertaking. Through careful planning and many hours of donated time inputting data, the Board accomplished this project on time, at a minimal cost to the Town. Being an Assessor is not an easy task, between the demands of the State and the concerns of the taxpayers. We want to thank the Board of Assessors for doing an exceptional job.

We accepted the following resignations with regret and thanks:

Peter Ignatovich	Zoning Board of Appeals
Kathy Jurkowski	Historical Commission
Julie Holt	Town Hall Custodian

We made the following appointments after the annual appointments in May:

Karla Stefansson	Hampshire County Commissioner
Tom Jenkins	Historical Commission
Ann Braastad	Board of Assessors
Lori Devine	Zoning Board of Appeals

Barry Brandow	Zoning Board of Appeals
Karen Bricker	"
John Glenowicz	Assistant Wiring Inspector
Robert Daysh	Police Officer
Tony Bishop	"
Mike Robbins	Town Hall Custodian
Laura Blakesley	Town Hall Scheduler

We hope that all will take the time to read the reports which follow. They will help you understand how many of your fellow residents are active in keeping Westhampton functioning. Please come to Town Meeting to participate in running YOUR town .

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Omasta, Chairman
Roy Van Driesche, Clerk
James O'Connor

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The governmental structure of Hampshire County is designed specifically to foster regional cooperation. A new Charter, approved by the voters in 1988, establishes a structure unique among the fourteen counties in Massachusetts. The citizens of each of the twenty municipalities elect commissioners to represent "each municipality in this government of Hampshire County to foster the development of voluntary associations of local governments to

address and resolve the common concerns and needs of the twenty-first century and beyond".

But, as you may know, Governor Weld and the Legislature have been successful in their efforts to eliminate counties as we know them. The Hampshire County Commissioners would like to let you know that we are in the process of reinventing county government in Hampshire County. We plan to provide the high level of service we have provided all along. While we feel the organization will be smaller, we believe that we will be able to have a renewed effort to provide regional services and develop cooperative efforts among communities. While some services may be discontinued, we are confident that new initiatives will better reflect the desire of the member communities.

As always, we welcome input on what types of services you would like to see. Thank you for your input and understanding during this period of change in Hampshire County.

Several Ad Hoc Committees were formed this year in response to electric utility deregulation, a racially motivated incident in Amherst, and a general desire to make the citizens more aware of the doings of the Hampshire County Commissioners.

Through the Regional Services Municipal Advisory Committee, an Electric Utility Deregulation As Hoc Committee was formed to seek lower electric rates in a competitive electricity market. An article to be placed on all Town meeting warrants is being drafted by the Legislative, Charter, and Code Committee. Its purpose is to seek a sum of money to hire staff for two years to further the effort to aggregate electric demand.

The Human Rights Ad Hoc Group was formed for those interested in pursuing Regional Civil Rights. The Massachusetts

Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD), which adjudicates issues of discrimination, has too many cases and is looking for bodies to pre-screen cases. It was felt the recent incident in Amherst might cause people to support a regional entity.

The Hampshire County Commissioners have also put together a Publicity Ad Hoc Committee in an effort to educate the general public on County services and to respond to news items pertaining to the County.

In December, the name of the Hampshire County Long Term Care Facility was changed to Hampshire Care. Director Hanley sadly tendered his resignation effective November 6, 1997 to accept a position in Portland, Maine. It was received with surprise, dismay and many good wishes.

Hampshire Care again received 100% no deficiency certification thanks to the efficiency and dedication of its staff in meeting the medical, nursing, therapeutic and social needs of patients. Hampshire Care offers both short and long term care, rehabilitation through licensed physical, occupational and speech therapists, and intense 2-4 week multi-disciplinary therapeutic intervention for traumatic injury, stroke or joint replacement.

Jan Wood, Director of Human Services, retired as of December 31, 1997. Due to restricted funding, the Human Services Department downsized for FY98. After the citizen vote in November, 1998 and the move to a Regional Council of Governments, the department will be revamped with a new full-time director, a new mission, new additional grants, and will work with municipal departments such as Boards of Health.

The Public Safety Municipal Advisory Committee is continuing to meet with police chiefs and selectboards in regard to their needs with respect to the regional lock-up facility for which the County

received 2.6 million dollars. A Building Committee will be made up of 3 police chiefs, 2 members representing the Sheriff's Department and 3 County Commissioners from the Public Safety Municipal Advisory Committee.

On a lighter note, Hampshire County moved into the 21st century when it went on-line in August. A web page is currently being worked on.

When I first took over the Commissioner's position from David Bridgman in July, I knew I had pretty big shoes to fill. At the time, the work and just having the big picture of what the commissioners do was overwhelming. But each month I gained a little more knowledge and my confidence grew. I now serve on the Legislative, Charter and Code Committee (which is in the process of writing a new Charter), the Humans Services Committee, as well as the Utility Deregulation AD Hoc Committee. I've learned so much in the past six months, but mostly I've gained a deep appreciation of county government and how working with different and individual members can really make a difference.

Though we may be dealing with a different form of government in the near future, you can still count on the 25 member Hampshire County Commissioners to continue to serve the cities, towns and schools with a variety of cost saving ways an innovations.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla E. Stefansson
Hampshire County Commissioner

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

1997 saw the increased use of the Motor Voter Registry System. Several problems with both hard and software were detected and remedied immediately. Updates and enhancements are constantly being added in an effort to streamline various aspects of the system.

1997 was a quiet year election-wise though 1998 promises to be more mercurial. The state computer plays a major role in the election process - from nomination paper signatures scanned into the system to bar coded voter lists to election results that will also be scanned into the computer.

The population of Westhampton increased in 1997 as did registered voters.

POPULATION (1997 Census) 1473 (754 male; 738 female)

REGISTERED VOTERS	906
Republicans	110
Unenrolled	659
Democrats	137

VITAL STATISTICS for 1997 were as follows:

BIRTHS	18
DEATHS	9
MARRIAGES	3

FISHING AND SPORTING LICENSES (1997)

F1 Resident Citizen Fishing License	5	@$23.50	$117.50
F4 Resident Citizen Fishing (Handicapped)	7	0.00	0.00
H3 Resident Citizen Hunting (Paraplegic)	1	0.00	0.00
S1 Resident Citizen Sporting	1	41.00	41.00
S2 Resident Citizen Sporting (65-69)	1	21.00	21.00

S3 Resident Citizen Sporting (over 70)	6	0.00	0.00
Wildlife Conservation Stamps	7	5.00	35.00
TOTAL			$214.50
Fees Collected			10.50
Paid to Division of Fisheries & Wildlife			$204.00

DOG LICENSES (1997)

57 Males	at $3.00		$171.00
58 Spayed Females	at $3.00		$174.00
6 Females	@ $6.00		$36.00
4 Kennels	@ $10.00		$40.00
3 Kennels	@ $50.00		$150.00
128			$571.00
Fees Collected	128 $ .75	$96.00	

Town Fees collected DOG LICENSES	$ 96.00
Town Fees collected FISH & WILDLIFE	10.50
Town Fees collected ZBA Applications/bylaws	432.00
Town Clerk Fees collected PARKING FINES	30.00
Town Clerk Fees collected	472.52
Total Fees Collected in 1997	**$1041.02**

Respectfully submitted,

Karla E. Stefansson

I have examined the books of the Town Clerk and find this report to be accurate.

Charlotte R. Wood, Auditor

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
JULY 1, 1996 - JUNE 30, 1997

FY96 Farm Animal Excise		
Committed	1866.87	
Collected	1832.87	
Due 6/30/97		34.00
FY90 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/96	99.15	
Due 6/30/97		99.15
FY91 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/96	143.52	
Due 6/30/97		143.52
FY92 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/96	257.28	
Due 6/30/97		257.28
FY93 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/96	111.30	
Due 6/30/97		111.30
FY94 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/96	140.40	
Due 6/30/97		140.40
FY95 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/96	324.36	
Due 6/30/97		324.36
FY96 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/96	2325.06	
Collected	-1825.60	
Due 6/30/97		499.46

FY97 Personal Property		
Committed	33387.24	
Collected	-30884.67	
Due 6/30/97		2502.57
FY92 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/96	30.66	
Due 6/30/97		30.66
FY93 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/96	60.20	
Due 6/30/97		60.20
FY94 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/96	4738.88	
Due 6/30/97		4738.88
FY95 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/96	18299.79	
Collected	-14382.44	
Due 6/30/97		3917.35
FY96 Real Estate (refunds $6701.88)		
Due 7/1/96	56647.71	
Collected	-14382.44	
Tax Titles	-81.12	
Due		19487.40
FY97 Real Estate (refunds $8184.89)		
Committed	1481323.64	
Collected	1438251.74	
Abated	-6937.94	
Exemptions	-8100.00	
Due 6/30/97		36218.85

1987 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/96	13.75	
Due 6/30/97		13.75
1988 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/96	379.38	
Due 6/30/97		379.38
1989 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/96	217.52	
Due 6/30/97		217.52
1990 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/96	548.44	
Due 6/30/97		548.44
1991 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/96	240.63	
Due 6/30/97		240.63
1992 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/96	293.34	
Collected	-22.50	
Due 6/30/97		270.84
1993 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/96	662.71	
Collected	-20.00	
Due 6/30/97		642.71
1994 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/96	1013.77	
Collected	-25.63	
Due 6/30/97		988.14

1995 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/96	4238.30	
Committed	143.34	
Abated	-7.19	
Collected	-229.11	
Due 6/30/97		4145.34
1996 Motor Vehicle Excise (refunds $1732.01)		
Due 7/1/96	8377.01	
Committed	14067.42	
Abated	-1545.24	
Collected	-22069.07	
Due 6/30/97		562.13
1997 Motor Vehicle Excise (refunds $41.25)		
Committed	89661.60	
Collected	-85360.12	
Abated	-1445.83	
Due 6/30/97		2896.90
Interest Collected - Real Estate	12987.04	
- Personal Property	238.01	
- Motor Vehicle	36.36	
	13261.41	

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Blakesley
Tax Collector

I have examined the books of the Tax Collector and find this report to be accurate.

Charlotte R. Wood, Auditor

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

GENERAL FUND

Balance July 1, 1996	$175670.73
Receipts	3156964.04
Disbursements	-2965562.86
Balance June 30, 1997	367071.91
Bay Bank Checking	3043.08
Bay Bank Capital	23309.85
Fleet Checking	2933.87
Fleet Money Market	36458.84
Fleet Collector	28460.56
Fleet Deputy Collector	4836.23
MMDT General	231749.83
MMDT Arts Lottery	3690.58
MMDT Septic Grant	159.72
Easthampton Savings	32429.35
Balance June 30, 1997	367071.91

TRUST FUNDS -MMDT

Charity	$3415.56
Cemetery	3737.44
Veterans	1339.16
Stabilization Fund	
Balance July 1, 1996	48525.09
Receipts	2599.86
Disbursements	-3648.00
Balance June 30, 1997	$47476.95
Total Trust	$55969.11
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	$423041.02

Interest earned - $28285.54

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. Parsons, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTING OFFICER

JULY 1, 1996- JUNE 30, 1997

Cash on Hand July 1, 1997		
General	**$175670.73**	
Stabilization	**48525.09**	
Trust Funds	**8423.31**	**$232619.13**

RECEIPTS

TAXES		
Property	15929125.52	
Farm Animal Excise	1832.87	
Forest Products Tax	560.00	
In Lieu of Taxes	534.64	
Motor Vehicle Excise	107478.93	
Tax Title	1800.00	1641331.96
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS		
Local Aid/Lottery	84410.00	
Highway Fund	36663.00	
Chapter 70 Schools	162259.00	
Chapter 71 Transportation	13466.00	
Election	90.00	
SBAB Reimbursement	277312.00	
Loss of Taxes	4629.00	578829.00
GRANTS AND GIFTS		
Dog Refund	368.77	
Council on Aging-Federal	1000.00	
Council on Aging-State	2000.00	

Arts Lottery	3150.00	
Library Aid	1856.00	
Septic Grant	86200.00	
Cemetery Bequest	259.39	94834.16
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Licenses	449.00	
Plumbing Fees	1827.00	
Electrical Fees	1250.00	
Sanitation Fees	330.00	
Building Permits	10785.80	
Assessors	67.00	
Planning Board	600.00	
Board of Appeals	166.00	
Conservation Commission	605.50	
Mark & Clear	260.00	
Town Clerk Fees	648.55	
Miscellaneous	3030.55	20018.90
POLICE		
Motor Vehicle Fines	4210.00	
Permits	776.00	
Revolving Fund	8374.24	13360.24
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Recycling	1669.45	
Licenses & Permits	1000.00	
Perc Tests	3125.00	
Landfill Fees	25326.40	31120.85
REVOLVING FUNDS		
Dog Licenses	432.50	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	353.50	
Septic Repayment	587.40	
Tax Collector Fees	4010.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	1016.00	6399.40

SCHOOLS		
Preschool Revolving	14677.20	
Charter School	5800.00	
School Lunch State	857.84	
School Lunch Federal	6077.75	
School Lunch Sales	15464.64	42877.43
HIGHWAY		
Loader Loan	70000.00	
Truck Loan	110000.00	
Transportation Bond Issue	283256.56	463256.56
INTEREST		
On General Fund	24945.43	
On Taxes	13261.41	
On Charity Funds	180.68	
On Cemetery Funds	197.75	
On Veterans Trust	68.85	
On Stabilization	2599.86	
On Septic Grant	75.32	
On Arts Lottery	217.65	41546.95
HEALTH INSURANCE REFUND		1659.00
AGENCY		
Meals Tax	24.36	
Payroll Deductions	224373.94	224398.30
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**$ 3159632.75**

PAYMENTS

NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES

TAX REFUNDS		
Property Tax	15241.50	
Motor Vehicle Excise	1749.51	16991.01
AGENCY		
Payroll Deductions	222634.53	
Meals Tax	24.36	222658.89
SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS		
School Lunch	23347.60	
Preschool	16669.36	40016.96
SPECIAL REVENUE & REVOLVING FUNDS		
Arts Lottery	3258.00	
Council on Aging State	2000.00	
Council on Aging Federal	639.13	
Highway Funds	168974.13	
Highway Gift	100.00	
Cemetery Gift	7305.45	
Cemetery Interest	300.00	
Police Revolving	9135.24	
Septic Grant	91200.00	
Tax Collector Fees	3960.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	1048.00	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	353.50	
Dog Licenses	348.50	288621.95
STATE & COUNTY ASSESSMENTS		
Air Pollution Control	312.00	
RMV Non-renewal Surcharge	580.00	

Pioneer Valley Planning	199.05	
Franklin Regional Transit Auth.	220.00	
County Tax	3769.00	5080.05
TOTAL Non-Appropriation		$ 573368.86
APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES		$2395842.00
See Appropriation Report for Detail		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**$2969210.86**

Cash on Hand July 1, 1997

General	**367071.91**	
Stabilization	**47476.95**	
Trust Funds	**8492.16**	**$ 423041.02**

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons
Accounting Officer

"In our opinion,... the general purpose financial statements...present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Town of Westhampton as of June 30, 1997, and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."

Borgatti Harrison & Co., CPA

APPROPRIATION REPORT FISCAL 1997

	BALANCE	APPROPRIATION	TRANSFERS (IN OR OUT)	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE CLOSED	BALANCE TO F1997
GENERAL GOVERNMENT						
COUNSEL FEES	0.00	5000.00		4910.61	89.39	
MODERATOR	0.00	150.00		150.00	0.00	
SELECTMEN SALARY	0.00	3200.00		3200.00	0.00	
SELECTMEN EXPENSE	22.40	3500.00	500.00			
Travel				607.36		
Dues				518.00		
Town Report				793.00		
Legal Ads				214.89		
Supplies				965.44		
Postage				128.00		
				3226.69	795.71	
SELECTMEN SECRETARY	0.00	2500.00		2500.00	0.00	
AUDITOR SALARY	0.00	90.00		90.00	0.00	
ACCOUNTING OFF SALARY	0.00	6000.00		6000.00	0.00	

ACCOUNTING EXPENSE	0.00	2300.00		
Computer Contract			375.00	
Supplies/computer			1360.94	
Dues			30.00	
Travel			215.00	
			1980.94	319.06
ASSESSORS SALARY	0.00	3200.00	3200.00	0.00
ASSESSORS EXPENSE	0.00	8600.00		
Dues/Travel			90.00	
Registry Transfer			96.50	
Revaluation			6500.00	
Data input			500.00	
Supplies			210.19	
			7396.69	1203.31
ASSESSORS SECRETARY	0.00	950.00	950.00	0.00
TREASURER SALARY		6000.00	6000.00	0.00
TREASURER EXPENSE	0.00	4700.00		
Computer Contract			375.00	
Bank Charges			925.85	
Bond Registration			300.00	
Dues			45.00	
Travel			132.00	
Postage			364.00	
Supplies/computer			2053.01	
			4194.86	505.14
TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	0.00	3000.00	3000.00	0.00
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	600.00	3235.00		

Repairs/equipment				1276.26	
Assistance				228.00	
Postage/envelopes				925.40	
Supplies				716.07	
Tax Bills				463.64	
Dues				35.00	
				3644.37	190.63
TOWN CLERK SALARY	0.00	4000.00		4000.00	0.00
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE		2340.00	90.00		
Computer Contract				155.50	
Election Officers				857.50	
Census				150.00	
Supplies/Printing				838.67	
Dues/Travel				411.00	
				2412.67	17.33
CLERK BOARD REGISTRAR	0.00	60.00		60.00	0.00
CONSERVATION COMMISSIOI	0.00	850.00			
Dues				80.00	
Supplies				93.72	
				173.72	
Balance closed to Conservation Fund					676.28
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE	0.00	700.00		298.00	402.00
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	0.00	200.00		0.00	200.00

HIGHWAY						
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	0.00	2500.00				
Uniforms				1172.25		
Telephone				1109.59		
License Renewals				75.00		
Supplies				20.10		
Dues & Travel				75.00		
				2451.94	48.06	
HIGHWAY SALARIES	0.00	107000.00		105730.07	1269.93	
HOLIDAY PAY	0.00	3353.00		3151.60	201.40	
VACATION PAY		3631.00		2604.40	1026.60	
BRIDGES & RAILINGS	0.00	500.00		0.00	0.00	500.00
HIGHWAY MATERIALS	0.00	50000.00				
Clean Catch Basins				12877.50		
Road Surfacing				36574.67		
County Fee				315.64		
				49767.81	232.19	
ROAD MACHINERY	0.00	16000.00	2900.00			
Repairs				4645.97		
Parts/Supplies				13930.35		
Shared Mower Fee				300.00		
				18876.32	23.68	
ROAD MACHINERY FUEL	0.00	8850.00	1800.00	10650.00	0.00	

SNOW REMOVAL	0.00	32000.00				
Overtime				11035.14		
Winter Sand				19997.45		
Salt				18442.79		
Supplies/Repairs				6923.27		
				56398.65		-24398.65
ROAD MACHINERY BUILDINGS	0.00	4600.00	1150.00			
Electricity				1552.01		
Heat				1533.75		
Supplies/Maintenance				2652.37		
				5738.13	11.87	
LOADER	0.00	70000.00		69343.00	657.00	
HIGHWAY TRUCK	0.00	110000.00		31565.00		78435.00
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES						
HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL H.S.	0.00	573008.00	-39425.00			
Assessment				529935.00		
Summer Pay Deferral				3648.00		
				533583.00	0.00	
VOCATIONAL	0.00	96290.00		14940.00		
Tuition				79660.24		
Transportation				94600.24	1689.76	
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	0.00	647268.00		646444.30	823.70	
See Elementary Report						

SCHOOL COMMITTEE SALAR'	0.00	480.00		480.00	0.00	
LIBRARY	0.00	16856.00				
State Aid			1823.82			
Salary				12953.01		
Utilities and Lawns				1158.65		
Books and Supplies				4568.16		
				18679.82	0.00	
VETERANS	0.00	100.00				
Supplies				10.79		
Dues				35.00		
				45.79	54.21	
VETERANS AGENT SALARY	0.00	550.00		550.00	0.00	
MEMORIAL DAY	0.00	100.00		65.97	34.03	
CEMETERY SALARY	0.00	2300.00		2300.00	0.00	
PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY						
POLICE DEPARTMENT	-1574.01	25000.00				
Salary				16509.00		
Mileage				161.04		
Dues				332.00		
Utilities				865.60		
WMLEC				250.00		
Equipment/Supplies				1701.62		
Repairs/Maintenance				2019.84		
				21839.10	253.16	1333.73

CONSTABLE	0.00	1.00		0.00	1.00	
FIRE CHIEF	0.00	825.00		825.00	0.00	
FIRE DEPARTMENT	0.00	8550.00	3500.00			
Southampton Ambulance				2000.00		
Hazardous Waste Fund				186.00		
Repairs				871.91		
Supplies/Equipment				7826.70		
EMT Expenses				1165.39		
				12050.00	0.00	
TANK TRUCK	815.00			815.00	0.00	
FIRE STATION ADDITION	1244.95			1244.95	0.00	
INSPECTOR SALARY		6300.00	2500.00			
Building Inspector				3500.00		
Plumbing Inspector				840.00		
Sanitation Inspector				330.00		
Wiring Inspector				645.00		
Board of Health perc tests				870.00		
				6185.00	1760.00	855.00
CIVIL DEFENSE		1.00		0.00	1.00	

DOG OFFICER		1.00		0.00	1.00	
HILLTOWN RESOURCE MGT.		4648.00		4647.15	0.85	
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARY		900.00		750.00	150.00	
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSE		17485.00				
Salary				6569.43		
Engineering				3099.96		
Hazardous Waste Removal				813.44		
Oil Removal				540.00		
Recyclable Removal				3836.50		
Stickers/Supplies				1345.79		
				16205.12	1279.88	
LANDFILL CAPPING	16545.10	0.00	20000.00			
Engineering				15169.58		21375.52
DEBT AND INTEREST						
SCHOOL LOAN		230000.00		230000.00	0.00	
TANK TRUCK LOAN		22000.00		22000.00	0.00	
FIRE STATION ADDITION LOAN		10000.00		10000.00	0.00	
INTEREST LONG TERM DEBT		197251.00		197251.00	0.00	
INTEREST SHORT TERM DEBT		1.00		0.00	1.00	

UNCLASSIFIED

INSURANCE & BONDS	0.00	30000.00			
Worker's Comp				5022.00	
Property/Liability				18881.00	
Police Disability				1000.00	
Fire Disability				2175.00	
Bonds				470.00	
				27548.00	2452.00
TOWN OFFICES	700.00	11700.00	-1050.00		
Custodian				750.00	
Electricity				1645.86	
Telephone				599.10	
Water				172.48	
Copier				863.00	
Lawns				1071.00	
Heat				1501.22	
Repairs/Improvements				2434.14	
Supplies				217.39	
				9254.19	2095.81
COUNCIL ON AGING	0.00	1000.00		1000.00	0.00
RECREATION	0.00	1000.00	400.00	1350.00	50.00
HISTORICAL	0.00	200.00		137.14	62.86

COUNTY RETIREMENT	0.00	33772.00		33772.00	0.00	
UNEMPLOYMENT	0.00	6500.00	-2350.00	3226.92	923.08	
GROUP INSURANCE	0.00	68000.00	-4450.00	62307.05	1242.95	
MEDICARE	0.00	5500.00		4906.16	593.84	
LAND DAMAGE	2400.00	3000.00		2944.07	0.00	2455.93
RESERVE FUND	0.00	5000.00				
To Selectmen Expense			-500.00			
To Recreation			-400.00			
To Road Machinery			-2900.00			
To Road Machinery Buildings			-500.00			
To Road Machinery Fuel			-600.00			
					100.00	
	20753.44	2494596.00	-17511.18	2395842.02	21439.71	80556.53

BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 1997

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
CASH	367071.91	AGENCY	4605.39
TAXES			
Levy of 1997		GIFTS	
Real Estate	43851.90	Cemetery Gift	32507.82
Personal Property	2502.57		
Levy of 1996		TRUST INCOME	466.71
Real Estate	18249.48		
Personal Property	490.11	GRANTS	
Levy of 1995		Arts Lottery	3690.58
Real Estate	3917.35	St. Aid to Libraries	1856.00
Personal Property	324.36	Council on Aging Fed	655.37
Levy of 1994		Chapter 113-36456	54070.60
Real Estate	4738.88	Septic Grant	747.12
Personal Property	140.40		
Levy of 1993		REVOLVING FDS	
Real Estate	60.20	Tax Collector Fees	135.00
Personal Property	111.30	Preschool	2996.78
Levy of 1992		Kindergarten	37.39
Real Estate	30.66	School Lunch	3238.15
Personal Property	257.28		
Levy of 1991		Loans Auth-Unissued	962.00
Personal Property	143.52		
Levy of 1990		RECEIPTS RESERVED	
Personal Property	99.15	Conservation Comm	2422.78
		Refunded Dog Tax	369.41
Farm Animal Excise	34.00	Sale Town Property	106000.00
In Lieu of Taxes	8946.40		
Tax Title	1374.54	OVERLAYS - 1990	99.15
		1991	143.52
Motor Vehicle Excise		1993	171.50
Levy of 1997	2550.23	1994	2813.34
Levy of 1996	1291.49	1995	3358.68
1995	486.63	Overlay 1996	9051.59
1994	973.76	Overlay 1997	2421.95
1993	642.71		

1992	270.84	REVENUE RESERVED	
1991	240.63	Tax Title Revenue	1374.54
1990	548.44	MVE Revenue	7615.38
1989	217.52	Farm Excise Revenue	34.00
1988	379.38	Dept. Revenue	8946.40
1987	13.75		
State Aid to Highways	58010.56	SURPLUS	
		Surplus Revenue	188991.32
Loans Authorized	962.00		
Police Revolving Fund	628.00	APPROPRIATIONS	
		Bridges & Railings	500.00
		HighwayTruck	78435.00
RMV Non-renewal	580.00	Police Department	1333.73
Pioneer Valley P.C.	199.05	Inspector Salary	855.00
		Landfill Capping	21375.52
Snow Removal Deficit	24398.65	Land Damage	2455.93
Total Assets	544737.65	Total Liabilities	544737.65

BALANCE SHEET - TRUST, INVESTMENT AND DEBT

TRUST CASH	55969.11	Street & Wright Fd.	2400.54
		Thayer Fund	1015.01
		Cemetery Funds	3737.45
		Stabilization	47476.95
		Veterans	1339.16
Total Assets	55969.11	Total Liabilities	55969.11
LONG TERM DEBT	2626000		
		New School Loan	2370000
		Dept. Eqpt. Loan	66000.00
		Fire Sta. Add. Loan	10000.00
		Highway Truck Loan	110000.00
		Loader Loan	70000.00
Total Long Term Debt	2626000.00		2626000.00

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 1997 the Board of Assessors issued 87 abatements and exemptions: 26 Real Estate and Personal Property and 61 Motor Vehicle; visited 60 properties undergoing construction or remodeling; recorded 71 property transfers; and approved the placing of 7 additional parcels under the protection of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B.

The town successfully completed its nine year full list and measure revaluation. Westhampton's assessed value for FY98 is $122,269,980: Real Estate - $92,218,900; Personal Property - $1,974,180; and Exempt - $18,076,900.

The Tax Rate was set in December of 1997 at $16.90 per $1000.00 of evaluation.

The Board of Assessors meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Assessor's Office at the Town Hall. Please feel free to come up or call us at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Nevins
Priscilla Miller
Ann Braastad

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of January 1, 1997 the Finance Committee members were:

Janice Tracy, Chairperson	1997
Margaret Parsons	1997
Roy Van Driesche	1997
Richard Tillson	1997
Mark Thornhill, Secretary	1998
Wallace Hlava	1998
Karl Norris	1999
David Brown	1999
Lydia Omasta	1999
Owen Bowman	1999

At the elections in June, Janice Tracy, Margaret Parsons, Roy Van Driesche, and Richard Tillson were re-elected, all for 3 year terms.

Reserve Fund transfers made in Fiscal 1997:

Road Machinery Account	$2900	March
Road Machinery Fuel	600	March
Road Machinery Buildings	$500	March
Recreation Committee	$ 400	March
Selectmen's Expense	$500	April

As of December 31, 1997, no Reserve Fund transfers had been made for Fiscal 1998.

On March 13, it was voted to declare a Snow Emergency and to authorize over-expending the Snow Removal Account.

Recommendations were made to Special Town Meetings to transfer moneys from available funds to cover deficits in various

accounts in FY 97:

April 28, 1997 - $1200 from Group Insurance Account to Road Machinery Fuel Account
- $650 from Group Insurance to the Road Machinery Buildings Account

May 10, 1997 - $1050 from the Town Offices Account and $2600 from Group Insurance Account to the Unemployment Account

The Finance Committee met with the various individuals, boards and committees to hear budget requests for FY 98. In an effort to stay within the limits of Proposition 2 1/2, reductions of $77,000 were recommended. It was the unanimous sense of the committee that further cuts would be detrimental to the town. The committee recommendation to the town meeting was a deficit budget contingent on an override vote of $164,899. At Annual Town Meeting held May 10, 1997, a $153,000 deficit budget was voted. This amount was presented to voters as an override of Proposition 2 1/2 on the election ballot June 7. That question was defeated and the Finance Committee made alternative recommendations for the reconvened Town Meeting June 9:

1. Rescind the purchase of the Williams property for town office space, (which was previously voted to be funded with $106,000 from the sale of the Old Center School and $47,000 from the Stabilization Fund.)
2. $47,000 from Stabilization Fund to cover Vocational Expenses.
3. Appropriate $0 for the loader debt and that expense ($27,975) be expended from the Transportation Bond Issue (reducing money for actual road work.)
4. Reduce the Snow Removal Account by $10,000 (the only account the town can legally overspend.)
5. Reduce our Hampshire Regional apportionment by $20,000.
6. Three specific Proposition 2 21/2 overrides and exclusions to be presented to the voters at a special election in July.

A. $24,400 for the Snow Removal deficit of FY 97.
B. $5,625 for an audit of Town accounts
C. One year $17,500 capitol exclusion for landfill closure costs.
These recommendations were approved and the overrides and exclusion were voted giving the Town a balanced budget.

In August, the Hampshire Regional High School resubmitted their budget to the Towns, asking for an increase. With the just announced probability of increased lottery receipts, anticipated new growth and the certification of free cash as of July 1, 1997, the Finance Committee recommended a $10,000 increase to our assessment and a Special Town Meeting August 4 approved $15,000. Because the majority of the other towns did not support this level of funding our assessment returned to the $535,000 level. On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, a Special Town Meeting on November 18, 1997 voted to put $17,500 back into the Stabilization Fund.

December 8, 1997, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, a Special Town Meeting voted to transfer $7000 from the Landfill Closure Account to a Transfer Station Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Tracy, Chair-person

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

This year the Board reviewed and signed off on plot plans and building permit applications, with numbers being similar to the previous year. No subdivision plans were submitted.

We continued to spend much of our time was spent updating forms for and educating others of the new zoning bylaws.

We welcomed Andrew Watson to the Board after the June election.

The Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Coffey
Steven Malinowski
William Kalmakis
Andrew Watson
Mark Schwallie

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

The Board conducted a total of seven hearings during 1997. Six of the appeals were granted, with conditions. One appeal was denied. Each of the applications received was given thorough review, as prescribed by the newly adopted by-laws.

The Board accepted the resignation of Peter Ignatovich as Chairman, and wishes to thank him for his years of service.

Efforts of various Town boards members to get the Board of Appeals to a full complement have been fruitful, although there is still one vacancy. Barry Brandow, Lori Devine and Karen Bricker have joined the Board. Their participation is appreciated and we look forward to working with them.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Thornhill, Secretary
Steve Malinowski, Chair
Robert Turner, Associate
Dan Bishop, Alternate
Lori Devine, Associate
Barry Brandow, Associate
Karen Bricker, Associate

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health welcomes Tom Martin, of Easthampton Road, as a new member. Tom was appointed to his position last year and has been a great help handling restaurant and cafeteria inspections and providing input regarding the landfill closure.

The loss of Roscoe Hurd this year was felt by all who knew him. The Board will miss Roscoe's experience and skill as the loader operator at the landfill, but mostly we will miss Roscoe as a friend and advisor.

The Board continues to meet every second and fourth Thursday of each month, at 7:00PM, at the Town Hall.

This year has been quite busy with the landfill taking up much of our time. Over 330 Westhampton households and businesses bought $25.00 disposal permits for the landfill this past year.

The landfill was ordered by the state DEP to stop operations by December 31, 1998, and to be completely capped by September 30, 199. The Board of Health has been working with the Board of Selectmen to follow a strict schedule, set by the Town and the DEP, that will enable this to happen. No decision has been made about the future method of solid waste disposal in Westhampton. The Town will have to decide soon whether to go to a transfer station or start private curbside pickup.

Several programs and clinics have been sponsored by the Board in the past year:

- The HRMC organized a paint swap at the landfill.
- Five families were able to participate in the annual hazardous waste collection program that was set up with other hilltowns and the HRMC.

Other items:

Fourteen septic systems for new construction were approved.
Ten septic system repair permits were issued.
Two tight tanks at Pine Island Lake were approved.
Two general licenses were issued.
Six installers permits and four haulers permits were given.
One report of illegal dumping was responded to
Percolation tests were held as usual in April and May.
Perc extension were given to those who requested.
Acted on complaints by neighbors regarding Jaws Auto Recycling.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sackrey, Chairman
Robert Daysh
Tom Martin

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative is a unique regional municipal cooperative created, operated and funded by its eleven member communities of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. The HRMC's main goal is to develop a first quality integrated recycling and waste management program for the region. This year, for the fourth year in a row, the HRMC will continue to be level funded.

This year the HRMC will continue to plan and organize the following programs in the region:

1. Monitor area recycling and waste management programs to make sure we are all recycling as much as we can!
2. Plan and operate the regional Hazardous Waste Collection Program in the months of September and October.
3. Plan and operate the regional Paint Recycling Collection in the months of September and October
4. Coordinate the regional sales of compost bins throughout the year.
5. Provide recycling set out bins to all area schools and to area residents on an as-needed basis throughout the year.
6. Provide outreach and education workshops and programs to HRMC areas schools on an as-needed, by request basis.
7. Provide outreach and education workshops and programs to all HRMC communities on an as-needed basis.
8. Work with local officials to improve day to day operations, signage and general information available at your town's landfill.
9. Work with local Boards and officials on new DEP grant programs as they arise, as well as advocate on behalf of the eleven member towns to State officials on state wide solid waste and recycling policies.

10. Create new programs to serve the Town needs as they arise.

Feel free to contact the HRMC anytime at (413) 268-3845, if you have any questions about these valuable programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Weiss, Administrator

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Westhampton Conservation Commission continues to provide protection for the Town's wetlands, its wildlife habitat, and water quality, by administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Additionally, the Commission continues to make compliance with state regulations easier for our citizens by refining administrative procedures.

I. Mandated Activities

- Site visits: 12
- Notice of Intent Hearings 6
- Rulings, negative 2
- Emergency Certifications 2
- Denial, Order of Conditions, DEP file #335-40 1
- First cutting plans\Notice of Intent 507.5 acres, filed for harvest

II Related Activities

- Conducted Wetlands Seminar, Wetland Protection Act. Free seminar for townspeople.

• Participated on development of regional town con. com. plan for towns unable to recruit commission membership.

III Financial Performance

- Prior balance: $1991.50
- Fees collected $ 605.00
- Administrative expenses $ 173.72
- Balance: $2422.78

IV. Membership

- Bob LaPalme, Chairperson
- Larry Cervelli, Secretary
- Amy Phinney
- Walter Brown
- Nancy Whitley
- Dan Pikett
- Steve Holt

Respectfully submitted,

Bob LaPalme, Chairperson

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

The annual farm animal census was completed in January 1998 with the following totals:

	Adult	Young
Dairy Cattle	172	196
Beef cattle	26	22
Oxen	1	3
Goats	10	5

Sheep	18	6
Horses	93	4
Ponies	4	
Donkeys	4	
Chickens	202	
Ratites	31	
Waterfowl	80	
Rabbits	10	

All the animals are healthy and well cared for. In 1997, one six month quarantine was completed and four ten day quarantines were conducted.

It is expected that 1998 will see an increase in rabies cases. Residents are reminded of the precautions that should be observed: 1. Avoid contact with wildlife and stray animals; 2. Vaccinate your pets and livestock. Proper records of vaccinations should be kept; Report any animal bite to the Animal Health Inspector.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard I. Tracy
Animal Health Inspector

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

The spring cleanup in 1997 was about average, however there was a lot more work done in resetting the stones that were knocked over by the vandals late in the fall of '96. Together with "Mitchell's" from Easthampton, Steve Holt with his tractor, and several volunteers, this task went easier than anticipated - thanks to all. The mowing season was continuos again this year - even during the dry summer.

The stretch of fence from the south side of the tomb to the end was scraped and painted by the boy scouts through the coordination of John Koziol as an Eagle Scout project. The section of fence north of the tomb will be replaced this spring due to decaying posts and boards. Thanks to everyone involved.

There were:

7 Burials
1 Cremations
8 New Lots
5 Foundations

Respectfully submitted,

Edward C. Fisher, Caretaker

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

In 1997, our winter had a number of storms, but only two of any consequence. The first storm, in December of last year, and the last storm, on April 1st, were both marked by about 20 inches of exceptionally wet and heavy snow. Consequently, besides cleaning up the snow, we were dealing with a large amount of tree damage. Our years of brush cutting and widening of shoulders really paid off at this time, as we were able to keep all roads open for most of both storms. There were many limbs down and some tree tops which reached out from further back in the woods. The ravages throughout the forests will be evident for years.

Speaking of brush cutting, the brush mower agreement with Northeast Utilities has passed its four year mark and a new agreement has been signed and a new machine leased. A real good program for all involved.

In June, our new 4 wheel drive Ford L9000 dump truck finally arrived, one full year after it was ordered. So far it seems to do what we had hoped it would do, and it should be much more versatile then the Walter truck it replaced.

In addition to the regular maintenance work, we did some more construction on upper Reservoir Road and also completed the drainage and final grading on the East end of Crowley Road. During the summer months, we started and completed the last section of reconstruction on Stage Road. That is the section from the Regional School to the town center. It has been about 14 years since we started reconstruction on the east end of this road. When we started, it was the worst road in town and now it is the best. We tried to use the best materials available to insure a long lasting project. Now time will tell.

We have a number of new projects developing which I keep thinking are ready to go, but then they get delayed for one reason or another, usually because of state funding complications. As of now, the resurfacing of Rt. 66 (Main Road) should happen in the spring, probably April. Lane Construction Co. has received the contract for that job. The complete reconstruction of South Road is still awaiting final approval of the design by the state, so, in spite of what I've told you, that job probably will not happen in 1998, but I haven't completely given up hope yet.

The rebuilding and realignment of bridge number W-27-6 on Kings Highway should go to bid in March or April, so that might get started in summer of 1998. Because of that possibility, we will be doing some widening on the upper end of Kings Highway to allow for two way traffic while the bridge is closed. We are in the process of awarding a design and engineering contract to Almer Huntley and Associates for the proposed reconstruction of Kings Highway and Reservoir Road between the Elementary School and Pine Island Lake. We hope that the state will see the wisdom of including a new

intersection at Kings Highway and Reservoir Road in this project so it can be all done at once. As design progresses, we will see how the estimated costs look as that will probably be the deciding factor. Further into the future, we have received approval from the state Project Review Committee for the reconstruction of Chesterfield Road and the northern half of Southampton Road. The future progress of these projects will depend on what form of Federal Transportation Bill Congress passes in 1998.

At the end of 1997 the weather phenomenon called "El Nino" is happening again and has brought us an early winter storm in November.

The equipment is in good condition and working well.

At annual Town Meeting I will present again the proposition to build an office on top of our boiler room. It would be a big help and if you have questions about it, I hope you will stop by and get an idea of what we have in mind

Thanks to everyone for your continued support and special thanks to David, Peter and Jerry for being such a good crew.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

As in previous years, the Police Department has continued to provide the residents of Westhampton with professional and the most expedient service possible. The substantial increase of marked

The patrols has shown to be effective in the decrease of property crimes, accidents and in other areas. the Department currently has a total of six members. Five Officers are available for calls, and one special Officer available for school functions and detail work. All Officers have attended mandatory training as well as monthly Association meetings. All Officers, except one, now live in town decreasing response time for Police calls.

With our new Office at the Town Hall, and the addition of our computer system through the COPS-MORE grant, the Department is much more efficient and professional.

Gun permit applications are taken on the 2nd Wednesday of each month between 6:00p.m. and 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall.

Police Calls for 1997

Accidents	15	Vandalism	15
Fire/Ambulance assists	6	Missing person	2
Arrests	11	Suspicious car/person	21
Assistance	12	Trespass	6
Housebreaks	1	Summons	22
Larceny	2	Warrants	3
Burglar alarms	34	Assault & battery	2
Stolen car/plate	1	Suicide	1
Animal calls	42	Information calls	401
Domestic violence	10	Sexual assault	0
Drug related	5		

Moneys turned in to the Treasurer

Court fines	$2090.00
Gun permits	$ 271.00
Insurance reports	$ 15.00

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence R. Lovett
Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

1997 has been a busy year, with activities covering a broad spectrum. In February, we received a grant for $1800.00 from the Department of Environmental Management. This grant was to install 2 dry hydrants in town for better water accessibility. One has been installed at Rolling Gate Farm on Rt. 66, and we want to thank Lisa Kennedy and Norm Jacques for allowing us access to their pond. We hope to install the second dry hydrant near the dam at Pine Island Lake.

In September, we received another grant, from the Department of Fire Services, for $3800.00. This grant is part of the S.A.F.E. program which stands for Student Awareness of Fire Education. This program is funded by the additional tax on each pack of cigarettes. The program is intended to expand our work with town organizations, mainly the schools, in teaching fire safety and health awareness, as related to cigarette smoking. We have chosen a curriculum in cooperation with the school teachers, and developed a plan of implementation. Hopefully, your children and grandchildren will tell you about it.

The pumper truck, purchased from Government Surplus, is now called E-3. The money taken in from the old tanker was used to paint E-3 inside and out. A lot of time has been put into refurbishing this truck, including wiring checks and repairs, parts replaced where necessary, new lights and radio, generator, etc. The truck was lettered by Roland Spencer and we extend our sincere appreciation to him. The Mass. State Police donated the cab mounted light bar.

The truck came on line in September and we expect a number of years of service from it.

Many classes were attended by department members during the year, including Haz-Mat, Auto Extrication, Water Rescue, Arson Awareness, Electricity Safety, and Comfort Care. The Mass. Fire Academy did a two day class at our station on S.C.B.A. - Search and Rescue. Also, most members stayed current with C.P.R. and the First Responders maintained their training. Captain Peter Montague, Sue Harrison, Bill Webster, and David Koske became Defibrillator Certified.

Charlene Diggins has administered Hepatitis-B shots when needed and we thank her for this service.

We have performed Fire Drills at the schools, and done education with Kindergarten, First and Second grades during Fire Safety Week. In June, we held another children's Mini-Muster in the Town Center in conjunction with the Band Concert.

At Chesterfield's Fourth of July celebration, we entered the Firemen's Muster and were thrilled with the support from Town residents and friends. We brought home the first place trophy as well.

Within the department, members have divided into a number of different committees to better adapt our varied schedules to the work which needs to be done. The committees are: Equipment, Trucks, Training, Policies and Procedures, and Building and Grounds.

This year we accepted, with regret, the resignations of Tim Daley, Bill Kalmakis, Jim Duffy and David Bridgman. New members voted in are Jim Duffy, Mike Diggins, David Koske and Wayne Parks. Former Chief David Bridgman was elected an Honorary Member. He had been on the Department for 40 years, including 18

years as Chief. We will miss him and his knowledge and leadership. Thanks to both Dave and Jeanne.

On May 29, 1998, we will hold a Dinner and Dance at the Northampton Country Club to recognize and celebrate our 50 years of existence as a Fire Department. We hope many of you will come and help us celebrate.

Our activities and calls are listed below:

Structure fires	1
Motor vehicle accident	1
Medical assist	11
Chimney fires	3
Carbon monoxide alarms	4
Grass or brush fires	9
Appliance malfunction	2
Cooking	2
Utility lines down	3
False alarms	5
Total calls	41

Oil burner Inspections	17
Smoke detector inspections	29
Burning permits issued	544

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy
Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The EMTs had a total of 44 runs this year:

Medical emergencies	35
Motor vehicle accidents	2
Cardiac	1
Other	6
TOTAL	44

They continue to offer C.P.R. training for anyone interested. This also provides most of their income.

A grant was received from the Prudential Insurance Company to cover over half of the cost of a new defibrillator. A door to door solicitation was conducted in December seeking the remainder needed for this purchase. At the end of the year, donations were still coming in and people are being extremely generous. We thank everyone who participated and next year's report will have the total received.

Easthampton Fire Department has begun providing Advanced Life Support backup for the ambulance to supplement Northampton C.R.I.T.

Deb Morin and David Koske have been recertified for defibrillator use.

We want to thank the Southampton Fire Department for their fine ambulance coverage to our town.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy
Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

I hereby submit my report from January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997. The building permits are coming in at a nice clip, except some people don't realize you need a permit for almost everything. This year I took in $8,892.70 for $1,213,029 of construction costs for building.

Permits issued:

One Family	8
Additions	7
Renovations	7
Basement Rooms	4
Above Ground Pool	4
Inground Pool	1
Decks	14
Garages	4
Siding	1
Sheds	13
Signs	0
Windows	5
Reroof	11
Barns	4
Miscellaneous Permits	3
	86

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Pietraszkiewicz
Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

For the year 1997, there were 42 electrical permits issued. My address has changed to: 12 Ireland St Ext., West Chesterfield MA 01084. Telephone 296-4399.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lyons
Electrical Inspector

REPORT OF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR

During 1997, the office of the Plumbing and Gas Inspector received a total of 37 requests for permits. There were 13 for new homes, 10 for remodeling and 14 for gas piping.

The sum of $1933 was collected for permit and inspection fees. $1492 of the total collected was for plumbing permits, and $441 was for gas piping permits.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Pichette

REPORT OF THE SANITATION INSPECTOR

In 1997, there were 29 inspection trips. Some inspections were for new homes; some for new systems for older homes; some for repaired systems.

If anyone has questions on the new Title 5 septic regulations, you may call me at 584-0111 (days) or any member of the Board of Health.

Respectfully submitted,

Stillman G. Brooks
Sanitation Inspector

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Blacksmith Shop Museum was open to the public on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00P.M. from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Members of the Historical Commission and Friends of the Blacksmith Shop served as hosts.

We would like to thank the Historical Society for giving us the grant to repaint the buildings of the museum and reglaze and paint the windows. It looks wonderful.

Thanks also to Rolland Spencer for repainting the two signs that hang at the museum. We appreciate his generosity.

The large bushes near the museum entrance were damaged during a 1997 winter storm. Our thanks to the town crew for removing the three bushes.

In July, Chuckwagon V was held by the Friends of the Blacksmith Shop Museum with chef Steve Krug in charge of the menu. Thanks to all who attended and to those who helped make it a great success.

After many years as Treasurer of the Friends of the Blacksmith Shop Museum, Anita Goddard has resigned and Gerry Ognibene has accepted the treasurer's post. Our thanks to Anita and Gerry.

It is with regret we accepted the resignation of Kathy Jurkowski in September as a member of the Historical Commission. Our sincere thanks to Kathy for her eight years of dedication and hard work. We'll miss you, Kathy.

Our newest member is Tom Jenkins of 1 Stage Road. Welcome, Tom.

We are still in the process of cataloguing items donated, and have purchased more acid-free boxes for storing papers and valuables. Thanks to everyone for their generosity and their continued support in preserving Westhampton's history.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Braastad
Irene Montague
Dan Krug
Bev Derouin
Tom Jenkins

REPORT OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION

Westhampton youth were once again very active in 1997. They participated in baseball, in basketball and in soccer. All sports were coordinated with the Southampton Youth Athletics Association.

The new soccer fields should be ready for use this year. With scheduled maintenance and reseeding, these new fields will be a haven for our youth to gather upon for many fun-filled years.

Thanks to all who made these dreams a reality.

Respectfully submitted,

The Recreation Commission

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging has continued as a very active and productive organization in 1997, involving a large number of town seniors in its activities.

During the year, we accepted, with regret, the resignations of Edward Montague and Lydia Omasta. Their interest and contributions to the COA have been greatly appreciated. New board members appointed were Terri Derouin and Sally Lawton.

We have continued our support of the local SALT Council, which has formed a very active committee. The main project in 1997 was the purchase of uniform house numbers with posts to provide quick emergency identification by EMTs and police. These will be provided to senior residences free of charge, and to all other households at a nominal fee. A safety fair was held in October, and "File of Life" refrigerator magnets are still available through the SALT council.

We have continued to co-sponsor SHARE (renamed SERVE), with the Outreach committee of the Westhampton church. This program has continued successfully for two years, providing food at low cost to anyone giving two hours of community service for each month.

The Hilltown Elder Network (HEN), had to be discontinued in June due to lack of funds. Other grant sources have been pursued however, and it is hoped that HEN can be restarted in May of 1998. This is a very worthwhile program providing free help with light

housework, yard work, and other chores for seniors.

Our continuing contract with Franklin Regional Transit Authority has enabled COA to meet all requests from town seniors for free transportation to doctor visits, grocery shopping and other necessary appointments. Many thanks to Edward Montague, dispatcher, and the paid volunteers who make this service possible.

We have continued other services for town seniors including companionship for homebound elders, get-well or friendship cards for those ill or hospitalized, and birthday recognition for all seniors. Out 3-x weekly exercise sessions continue, as well as the minor home repair program funded by the state. The COA newsletter was mailed quarterly to every senior household.

The annual flu clinic was held on October 21. Ninety-five flu shot
and ten pneumonia shots were given.

Monthly luncheons, followed by entertainment, were held, with meals delivered to any homebound senior requesting this service. These gatherings included a Christmas concert in December with the Southampton COA as our guests, the May luncheon hosting the fourth graders and the annual picnic at Ed and Jean Alwards home at Pine Island Lake.

Three fund raising events enabled us to arrange two bus trips. The first one, in June, was to the Carousel Museum in Bristol, CT. The second, in October, took us to the Clock Museum in Grafton, MA. Approximately 35-40 seniors signed up each time.

The COA sponsored a concert in June by the Dixie Land Band from Shelburne, MA, funded by the Westhampton Cultural Council. For the third year, the Westhampton firemen staged a mini-muster for children and the EMTs put on a cook-out. This combined event was enthusiastically received by everyone.

We wish to thank the Hampshire Regional School, the Westhampton Elementary School and the Westhampton Church for the use of their facilities. Town officials and community members have been most helpful, as have the seniors themselves, who have given many volunteer hours to make these programs possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Kelley, Chair
Terri Derouin
Olga Hathaway
Sally Lawton
Louise Marchand
Eleanor Miller
Mervyn Morse

REPORT OF THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Westhampton Cultural Council said good-bye to Joanne Brooks who had served a six year term. Thank you Joanne for all the expert input. Eleanor Miller and Victoria Yoshen were welcomed aboard and we immediately made use of their expertise at our December meeting. The Westhampton Cultural Council remains open to anyone who wishes to serve on a board that is responsible for granting funds to local art and cultural venues. Please contact a Selectmen for appointment to this council.

$3150 was appropriated to our Council by the Massachusetts Cultural Council in 1997 and the following grants were awarded:

1. Administrative Expenses	$ 2.00
2. Bravo Enterprises - Newspaper	240.00
3. Sara Steverman Frankel - poetry workshop	150.00
4. King Philip Dixieland Band - concert	400.00
5. Henry Lappen - juggling performance	300.00
6. Guy Morin - Civil War Soldier	150.00
7. Westhampton Library - summer reading programs	750.00
8. Westhampton Singing Society - Spring and Christmas concerts	300.00
9. Westhampton Elementary School - PASS Program-Springfield Symphony Children's Program	858.00

Anticipating that the State will continue to fund local cultural councils, grant application requests should be submitted to the local cultural council by October 15, 1998 to be considered for the 1999 funding cycle. We are seeking applications from people who wish to provide community based arts, humanities and interpretive sciences projects and activities that will benefit the residents of Westhampton. The State has a matching fund incentive grant program where towns can appropriate funds to their local cultural council and the State will match that amount. At this years 1998 Annual Town Meeting, our council has requested $500.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla E. Stefansson, Chair
Janet Babcock
Ron Baer
Robbie Merrington
Eleanor Miller
Victoria Yoshen

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Westhampton Memorial Library continues to play an important role in the life of Westhampton. In 1997, patrons checked out a total of 17,770 books, magazines and videos.

The trustees meet in the library on the second Thursday of each month at 7p.m. Their responsibilities include oversight of the budget, the trust accounts, the director and upkeep of the building. In addition, much of their energy this year was devoted to the completion of a 3 year long range plan. We were assisted by Lyn Keating and Hilary Nolan. The group followed the lengthy and detailed format prepared by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). The resulting document makes the library eligible for state and federal grants as well as being an extremely useful planning tool for the future of the library. The trustees feel that this was a valuable exercise to determine exactly how the library serves users presently and how the library can best serve Westhampton in the coming years. A copy of the plan is available for perusal at the library.

The library director is Carolyn Keating whose energy, dedication and uncanny knowledge of patrons' reading tastes continues to keep the library thriving. The children's librarian is Betsy Koziol. If your child is not espousing Betsy's virtues yet, you should stop in for preschool story hour on Mondays or enroll in the summer reading program. In addition to her children's librarian role, Betsy is also the fill-in desk clerk and the custodian since the resignation of Cecile Lampson in the fall. We appreciate Cecile's many years of faithful, careful service.

In addition to the paid staff, the library is fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers who contribute a significant number of hours to the library - over 300 hours in 1997! Volunteers help with the

summer reading program, shelving books, checking books out, assisting with bookmobile visits, gardening, shoveling and plowing. This year, a major effort by volunteers has enabled the library to be open from 10-1 on Saturdays! We hope to continue Saturday hours from October through May.

Fifty-one children completed the requirements of the summer reading program, "Celebrate!" This program is supported by the Friends of the Library, the Westhampton Cultural Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Besides the reading and arts and crafts, there was a puppet making workshop conducted by the Gerwick Puppets, a performance of multi-cultural songs and stories by Mary Jo Maichack, and "The World of Owls" presented by Julie Collier of Wingmasters.

Increasing numbers of patrons are making use of the library's computer. Adults and children from Westhampton are taking advantage of the wealth of information that is readily available on the Internet. The library offers access to InfoTrak SearchBank, thanks to funding by the MBLC. This is a web-based service that provides indexing of and full text with images of millions of periodical articles. We hope to continue to expand the technology offerings at the library.

Other resources that are seeing greater use by patrons include the interlibrary loan program (400 requests were filled in 1997), books on audio cassettes, and videocassettes.

The Friends, chaired by Marianne Zurn, are becoming active, which should be a major boon to the library - they are holding a "Blossoms and Books" sale at the library on May 16 from 9:30-12:30. They have recently published a new town telephone directory. Do you have copy? They are available at the library for $5.00. The Friends are seeking members, so please inquire.

The library is publishing a quarterly newsletter which is mailed to every household in Westhampton, funded by the Friends. We hope to increase awareness of the library's many services, new books, and programs.

The trustees goals for the coming year include more community involvement supporting the library, both in financial terms and volunteering time and energy. We also hope to begin collections of compact discs and audio books.

The library's budget request for the coming year was determined after careful examination of our goals and needs as outlined in our long range plan. The budget reflects the trustees' commitment to compensating our staff for time worked, salaries on a par with other libraries and similar Westhampton positions, and increased technological resources, as well as our belief that the maintenance of the building is the town's responsibility.

As always, we are grateful for Westhampton's support of its library, and look forward to another year of serving the town.

Respectfully submitted for the trustees,

Cynthia D. Tillson
Chair

Trustees and term expirations

Louise Montague	1998
Cynthia Tillson	1998
Deb Dutkiewicz	1999
Dorothy Miller	1999
Margot Cleary	2000
Victoria Yoshen	2000

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY TREASURER
July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997

TOWN ACCOUNT

Income July 1, 1996 thru June 30, 1997			
Town Appropriation	16,382.00		
Dog Refund	474.00		
Voted Town Appropriation		16856.00	
LIG		1250.00	
MEG		573.00	
Total Library Budget			18679.82

Expenditures - July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997

Books	3691.13
Magazines	342.65
Videos	-
Supplies	54.16
Director	10470.00
Children's Librarian	1477.25
Clerk	530.25
Fuel	525.56
Telephone	209.04
Electricity	743.13
Maintenance	635.66
Computer	-
Dues/Meetings	-
Repairs	-

Total Expenditures 18679.82

June 30, 1997 No Balance

TRUSTEES ACCOUNT

Balance June 30, 1996		
Easthampton Savings	9548.14	
Easthampton Savings Term Cert	closed	
Florence Now Account	623.37	
Florence Savings -Spec. Acct.	737.54	
Worm Account	7166.39	
HP Miller Account	11896.81	
Balance June 30, 1996		29972.25
Income- per cash book July 1, 1996-June 30, 1997		
Copy Machine	78.00	
Video Account	20.00	
Misc. Book Account	85.00	
Dr. R. Caldwell	35.00	
Gifts - Dave Goddard	50.00	
Friends	1050.00	
Friends-Lottery	500.00	
Misc.	100.00	
Mascho account	100.00	
Derouin, T.	10.00	
Zimmerman	25.00	
Dave Cole	100.00	
Computer	2.00	
		2155.70
Interest		
HP Miller Account	299.58	
Florence Now Account	11.95	
Florence-Special Account	18.63	
Worm Account	169.28	
Easthampton MM	241.36	
		739.90

Total Income - Balance		29972.25
Income		2155.70
Interest		739.90
		32867.85

Expenditures		
Magazines	108.41	
Books	1074.30	
Supplies	123.52	
Videos	78.34	
Maintenance	285.54	
Meetings and Dues	46.20	
Repairs	1406.71	
Telephone	48.05	
Electric	136.62	
Bank charge	10.00	
Friends - Supplies	152.90	
Friends - Programs	417.25	
Misc Gifts	375.85	
	4624.40	
Balance in Trustees Account		28243.45

Cash Balance June 30, 1997		
Easthampton MM Account	8788.60	
Florence Now Account	753.33	
Florence Special	756.17	
HP Miller Account	12016.39	
Worm Account	5928.96	
Balance in Cash book		28243.45

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Special Account - Memorial Account

Balance July 1, 1996	252.86
Interest	6.39
Balance June 30, 1997	259.25

This year has been another expensive one. Electrical problems, both in the building and in the lines coming to the library, add up. Also, the toilets went on vacation and had to be replaced. The computer sees added use and so does the library. Our income has not increased to cover all expenses and the gifts to the Library do not grow.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy M. Miller
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Westhampton School Committee meets at the Westhampton Elementary School at 7:30 on the third Tuesday of each month. The Committee members are: Robert D. Fleischner, Chair, Jai Marla Prickett, Vice Chair, and Jonathan Kahane, Secretary. Bob Fleischner represents Westhampton on the Board of Governors of the Hampshire Educational Collaborative and the District's Administrative Advisory Committee. Jai Prickett is the Committee's local delegate to the Hampshire Regional School Committee and Jon Kahane represents the Committee at meetings of the Pioneer Valley and Hampshire Regional Educational Alliances.

Under the State's education reform law, the Westhampton School Committee acts as a sort of board of directors for the Town's elementary school. Its primary responsibilities are to set local educational policy and to hire, supervise and evaluate the Superintendent. The Superintendent, in turn, is re sponsible to hire and supervise the Principal, and the Principal has the same

responsibility for the building staff. General spending levels, Statewide educational policy and, to an increasing extent, the curriculum, are established by the State's Board of Education. The Committee remains responsible for the budget, contract negotiations with the teachers association and for local policy decisions. The school budget for $682,349. Vocational school expenses were budgeted at $129,600.

Educational reform has increased the financial resources available from the State to the elementary school. Consequently, with the support of the Town, the Committee has been able to institute modest but significant additions to programming and staffing. Among the most important efforts in the past year have been the supplementation of technical assistance for the staff and students in the use of the school's expanding computer resources, increased time for the librarian and the addition of a program in Reading Readiness, an intervention for children in the early grades who need intensive, relatively short-term assistance to begin to read. The Committee has supported the superintendent's successful efforts to make maximum use of State, federal and private grants. For example, the comprehensive and expensive training for the readiness teacher was paid entirely by a grant.

The school has been able to maintain the kindergarten on a full day schedule. Based on registration for next year, it should be possible to continue to operate the full day program. The pre-school program is conducted on a tuition-in manner.

The school's experienced faculty provide a quality education to the children. Special education programs are excellent and provided at a cost below the state average. One indication of the quality of the education is the relatively small number of children who have left the school to attend a charter school or school in another town through the school of choice program. An after-school band program, which is available for a very small fee, began in the Fall of 1997 and is very popular. The World Language Program continues to be successful

and popular and we are proud to be leading the way in this area. This year's school wide theme is "Around the World" and several programs have been presented along with volunteer presentations. Presentations on Multi-Cultural Folktales, studying Japan through Music, and Tai Chi are a few examples. The Committee is grateful to the faculty, staff and volunteers for their motivated and dedicated service to education.

The Committee is concerned that class size in some grades is approaching a level that may be too high for maximum educational advantage. The Committee worries that future population growth may have an even greater impact on class size, and ultimately, may require more teachers to be hired.

In response to the building-based-management mandates of education reform, the Committee also works cooperatively with the School Council, which includes the Principal, teachers, parents and community members. The Council reviews the proposed budget and prepares a School Improvement Plan each year. The Council was a strong proponent of world language, and has been a leader in addressing tardiness and other important building issues during the past year.

The Committee and the staff continue to work to meet the many new requirements of the sweeping education reform law. For the first time this year, in May 1998, Fourth Grade students will participate in comprehensive State mandated tests based on the core curriculum designed by the Board of Education. In May, 1997, the Committee voted again not to participate in the school of choice program, which would have opened the school to a limited number of students from other towns. The Committee must vote on participation each year.

Westhampton Elementary School is fortunate to have many volunteers who selflessly donate their time and energy to the school and to the community. With volunteer assistance, we have, among

other things, wired the building for computers and the Internet, prepared a Technology Plan, continued to provide an outstanding after-school drama program, raised money for books and other supplies, expanded the playground, staffed the library, chaperoned field trips and helped to supervise Fun Day. The vibrant and active PTO has once again been successful in raising funds to aid school programs. The Dr. Thomas M. Cleary Volunteer Award was shared by Roberta Merrington and Diane Thornton at the June 1997 graduation.

The building remains in excellent repair. With the assistance and oversight of the Recreation Commission, a soccer field has been added and it is projected to be ready for use in the Fall 1998 season. The community makes use of the building on an almost daily basis. The small gym is used for youth basketball and indoor soccer. The library is used by the EMTs, the Council on Aging, the Boy Scouts, 4-H, the Fire Department and others. The playing fields are used by youth soccer and softball leagues. The Committee encourages use of the building by the Westhampton community.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Kahane, Secretary
Robert Fleischner, Chairman
Jai Marla Prickett, Vice Chairman

WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Elementary Appropriation	$647268.00
Total Expenses	-646444.30
Balance closed to revenue	823.70

VOCATIONAL

Vocational Appropriation	96290.00
Expended transportation	-14940.00
Expended tuition	-79660.24
Total Expenditures	-94600.24
Balance closed to Revenue	1689.76

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EXPENDITURES

Administration	
Professional Salaries	16825.64
Clerical Salaries	7869.18
H.E.C.	2720.00
Insurance	1980.00
School Committee Expense	972.27
	30367.09
Special Education	
Professional Salaries	3236.63
Clerical Salaries	2330.64
Teachers' Salaries	54849.00
Aides	30653.39
Supplies	153.35
Textbooks	179.74
Contract Services	6510.00
Transportation	2385.00
Tuition	4575.00
Other	160.65
	105033.40

Instruction	
Salaries	407235.44
Classroom Supplies	9733.59
Textbooks	4222.68
	421191.71
Other Expense	
Class Trips	800.00
Equipment	2955.73
Library Books	465.37
Audio Visual	571.71
Health Services	4077.06
Cafeteria	7911.56
Transportation	24840.00
Other Expense	1495.49
	43116.92
Operation & Maintenance	
Salaries	11875.96
Supplies	2370.62
Fuel	4447.02
Utilities	15878.29
Maintenance	11676.29
Maintenance of Equipment	487.00
	46735.18
Total Expenses	646444.30

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

It has been our priority to coordinate programs and opportunities for students in our five, single-school districts. During 1997 we kept pace with trends and the advantages of using technology in teaching and made great strides in strengthening ties in our school communities between parents, residents, and taxpayers. Following is a review of 1997 activities and events in each of our districts..

In the **Chesterfield-Goshen Regional** District, students, town and state dignitaries participated in a groundbreaking observance in June launching construction of a new $3.7 million dollar facility. Named the New Hingham Regional Elementary School, this 33,000 square foot building will be located on Smith Road in Chesterfield and will open in September, 1998. Working closely with Margo Jones Architects of Greenfield, it took two rounds of bidding and substantial changes in design specifications to bring in a low bid under budget. The general contractor is BW Construction of Spencer. Later in the year, voters also approved an increase in the project cost so that state reimbursement could be matched with privately raised funds for a huge playground installation at the school, at no additional cost to the taxpayers.

It was possible to combine all Chesterfield and Goshen students at the Goshen Center School for the 1997-98 school year. Although conditions are crowded, this arrangement had a very positive effect in bonding faculty and students a year ahead of being together at the new school. Students seem to have adapted very well to the move, and the school's atmosphere is laden with enthusiasm, anticipation and excitement. We are most appreciative of the efforts of all the town officials who contributed to the success of this consolidation and for the flexibility and endurance of teachers and parents in adapting to these temporary accommodations.

A strong academic program, well maintained and equipped facilities, and a positive school climate reflecting mutual respect among students and staff continue to be hallmarks of the **Hampshire Regional High School**, but financial issues have been the most dominant concern by far during 1997. Hoped-for reimbursement on last year's technology grant will not happen unless and until voters approve a future bond issue for major facility improvement. In that partial reimbursement for the roof replacement project five years ago will begin no earlier than 1999, any further construction aid will probably not be received until at least 2004.

Securing uniform support for an adequate school budget for Hampshire Regional from all five towns has always been a challenge, but has become more serious in the past few years. Although the School Committee submitted its 12.9 percent FY98 budget proposal to the towns more than once, ultimately a 2.9 percent increase was funded, half a million dollars less than requested. Nine new treacheries were needed to remain reasonable class sizes and still provide appropriately diverse course offerings in 1997-98, but the budget as approved funded only one new teacher.

Administrators have again applied for relief in the form of supplemental assistance from the state's Foundation Reserve Program. In November, 1997, $132,000 in so-called "pothole" funds permitted us to add four teachers, at least for the remainder of the current school year. But these are not automatically recurring revenues, so the challenge remains to maintain this staffing level with future budget support.

Enrollment at Hampshire has shot up by 156 students since 1993, a 22 percent increase overall. To offset annual tuition cots for resident students who now attend charter schools in the area, we admitted a few students from neighboring towns under the school choice

program for the first time in the fall of 1997. But with population growth in out own towns, it is unrealistic to rely on school choice for financial stability over time.

Annual maintenance budgets cannot adequately address long-term needs of a school the size of Hampshire Regional. Dedicated in 1971, the facility is now in its 26th year of use, and we are indebted to a maintenance staff and responsible student body for its generally good condition and attractive appearance. A recent Building Needs Committee has proposed some major improvements to insure that the buildings infrastructure will serve the towns for another three decades.

Another district experiencing rapid growth is **Southampton**, where more than 520 students now attend the William E. Norris School, and with the town's population growth, it is projected that another 20-25 students will be added per year in the future. Fortunately, the building renovation in 1995 created some additional space for this expansion, and some rooms have been taken over for classes. There have been very few problems with the physical plant this year, but parking space is at a premium. Legislation is being proposed that would allow unused construction project money turned back by the Building to be held in reserve by the town as a revolving account for future maintenance needs.

Besides having a modern and spacious building, Norris School students benefit from a sound educational program, an experienced and capable faculty, full-time art, music and physical educat6ion teachers, half-day and extended-day kindergarten sessions, and an integrated preschool program for three and four year olds. Recently added were elective offerings in chorus, arts, and physical education. Teachers have undertaken a pilot program in Work Sampling as a technique to more accurately assess student learning, and the reporting schedule has been shifted to three terms. A team from the Department of Education conducted a full-scale audit of the school's

special education program, focusing on quality of program services, accuracy of records and reporting, and meeting financial requirements. Overall results of this audit have been positive and helpful.

Because of the school's rapid enrollment growth, it qualified for supplemental aid, and we received $65,000 of "pothole" funds from the state, making it possible to add a technology teacher and another grade four teacher in December 1997. It should be noted, however, that these funds are not assured to continue from year to year. given that per-pupil costs to educate students in larger school are generally less than in smaller schools, Southampton certainly gets much for its tax dollar. In 1994-95, the town spent about $3,300 per pupil, ranking about 240th in the state.

Continuing their practice of adopting an annual theme for the school year, such as "Flight" or "Massachusetts: Then and Now," teachers at the **Westhampton Elementary School** has chosen "Around the World" as an appropriate link to learning about the earth and peoples from other cultures. This common thread provides teachers with an opportunity for cross-graded activities, enrichment experiences, and an interdisciplinary perspective. It also strengthens school-home-community connections and builds awareness of geography to help implement the statewide social curriculum frameworks. Special events, guest speakers, and parent-student programs reflecting this theme were scheduled throughout the school year.

Among other new features at the school are the start of an intensive "reading Recovery" program for first-graders, and the offering of group and individual music lessons to students. As in the past, all students participate in conflict resolution classes to help them deal with issues and conflicts they face at school and in the community. An extensive parent volunteer network provides much appreciated behind-the-scenes support to classroom teachers, the art program, and the school's library. Besides the School Council, there

is also an active Parent-Teacher Organization at the school. "Family math" nights have proven to be a hugely successful format for children and their parents to experience the joys and complexities of learning together. Evening and weekend use of the school facility by community groups and organizations has been increasing steadily in recent years.

Westhampton K-6 enrollment is about 160 students, with one teacher per grade, but there is very little room for additional students. A full-day kindergarten program is now offered, but if incoming classes are substantially larger, it may be necessary to reorganize the sessions accordingly. A preschool program is being offered on site foe the 1997-98 school year.

Williamsburg continues to show the way as a "lighthouse" district for showcasing and sharing innovative and meaningful uses of technology with teachers fro mother area schools. With a thoroughly trained teacher, "reading Recovery" techniques provide excellent opportunities to ensure future success of beginning readers. Now in its third year as a school of choice, Williamsburg has been successfully augmenting its financial resources by enrolling students from other districts. A popular new program offering called "Friday choice time" has provided a wide range of enrichment activities and opportunities to enhance student learning. Thanks to volunteers and widespread community support, a major fundraising effort made great progress toward funding, purchasing and installing a $44,000 full-scale playground.

Two retirees were honored for their many years of dedicated service to the school and its students. Brenda Sommer retired after 28 years of teaching at the James and Dunphy Schools, and head custodian Richard Braman's retirement capped a 20 year career at the school. Following lengthy negotiations, teachers and the School Committee settled a three-year contract package extending into the

year 2000.

A major accomplishment affecting all school districts is the completion of a comprehensive health education curriculum. Donald Johnson was chosen as the district's Director of Pupil Personnel Services, replacing Elaine Finkowski. Mr. Johnson brings a wealth of experience from similar regional school districts to the central administrative team.

Each of our five school committees names a delegate to meet regularly with the five teacher association presidents and five principals as an "Alliance for Education." Late in 1997, the five School Committees, finances committees and selectboards from the five towns, and elected officials from other cities and towns in the area banded together to voice their resolve to state legislators that regional district transportation aid be increased to the 100 percent expressed under law, and that special education finance reform provide additional relief for extraordinary costs associated with out of district placement of special education students.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Erickson
Superintendent

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The citizens of Chesterfield, Goshen, Southampton, Westhampton and Williamsburg can point with justifiable pride to the students at Hampshire Regional School and to the achievements of those students. The statistics are impressive. For example, 80

percent of Hampshire students enter college after graduation. The 1997 SAT median math score was 558, compared with the state score of 508; the SAT median verbal score at Hampshire was 537, compared with 508 state wide.

Outsiders praise our school. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, in their accreditation visit two years ago, found Hampshire to be a very pleasant place for teachers to teach and for students to learn. They gave Hampshire an excellent rating for school climate.

Faculty, administration, School Council and School Committee are working together to plan for the future, implementing the state-mandated world language program for all students in the school, integrating computer technology throughout the building and the curriculum, and beginning the implementation of a tech-prep program.

But there are serious worries. Year after year, Hampshire has been unable to fund its budget, and the financial situation gets worse and worse. It has been impossible to increase teaching staff to accommodate the rapid growth of the student population. In 1990-91, there were 650 students taught by 53 "full-time-equivalent" (FTE) teachers (a student/teacher ratio of 12.3); school opened this year with 867 students and 54 FTE teachers. Only a "one-time" grant from the October permitted late hiring of teachers to bring the staff to58 FTE and give a student/teacher ratio of 14.9. The arithmetic is unavoidable; that 17 percent increase in the student/teacher ratio means that class sizes have grown dramatically. At the same time, funding for textbooks and supplies has dropped. Maintenance has been drastically deferred, leading (for example) to severe deterioration of the athletic fields.

Citizens of the five towns have repeatedly expressed their support of their schools. Then why has Hampshire's financial situation become so precarious?

One problem is the failure of the state to meet its statutory obligation to reimburse expenses for school bus transportation. By state law, 98 percent of our 1991 transportation expenses of $332,520 should have been reimbursed; the state paid only $240,342, 72.3 percent. Out 1995 transportation expenses were $358,347. of which only $216,156 (60.3 percent) was reimbursed in April 1997. The state has not been following its own rules, and its performance is getting worse.

Another problem is uneven implementation of the Massachusetts Education Reform Law. An announced goal of the law was to reduce reliance of school funding on property taxes. A massive infusion of state money into certain schools did occur, but the net result for Hampshire Regional School District has been increased reliance on property taxes.

A third problem is that the state is years behind in paying its 68 percent share of the $250,000 bond for the 1992 replacement roof for our school building. We have been making payments on the bond, but no state reimbursements have yet been received.

To compound our budget problems, a significant portion of our state funding for the past two years was not approved until after school had opened, coming from the state "pothole" appropriation. Not knowing whether any pothole funds would be approved, the school was forced to operate in the fall with less than a full teaching staff. The state does not provide a definite figure for its Chapter 70 funding (expected to be 32 percent of the 1998-99 budget) until months after the school budget has been submitted to the towns and often not until after town meetings.

Many local citizens feel that the state is failing to support Hampshire Regional School appropriately. We can hope that the state's performance will improve soon. Nevertheless, it is likely that property taxes this year must again be a major source of the funds for operating the school. Those taxes are assessed in accordance

with the votes at Town Meeting where, in the time-honored New England tradition, each voter has the same vote as every other voter.

Respectfully submitted,

George Fleck, Chair
Hampshire Regional School Committee

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 1997

GRADE	1995	1996	1997
Preschool	1	15	15
Kindergarten	18	19	16
Grade 1	27	20	18
Grade 2	22	27	22
Grade 3	23	23	24
Grade 4	25	23	25
Grade 5	24	25	26
Grade 6	18	25	22
Westhampton Total	158	177	168
School Choice	2	0	3
Hampshire Regional	111	111	114
Vocational Schools	10	13	11
Total Public Schools	281	301	296

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE TREASURER - FISCAL 1997

BUDGET

Budgeted amount	$5,025,016
Actual Expended	5,024,831
Under budget	185

RECEIPTS

	Forecast	Actual
Chapter 70	1,486,933	1,486,933
School Choice/Charter	(55,438)	(47,20)
Transportation	233,073	216,156
Assessments	3,173,448	3,173,448
Supplemental state funds	187,000	187,000
Other: State Wards		2,599
Interest Earned		20,967
Misc Receipts		10,385
Total Receipts	5,025,016	5,049,868
Actual receipts over forecast		24,852
Gain from budget/receipts		25,037
FY97 E & D Deficit		(13,413)
FY 98 E & D Beginning Balance		11,624

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Freebourn, Treasurer

SALARIES

Fiscal 1998

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted.

ELECTED OFFCIALS		
Board of Selectman	Chairman	1200
	Others	1000
Board of Assessors	Chairman	1200
	Others	1000
Board of Health	Each (+$18/perc)	300
Town Clerk		~~4500~~ 5000
Tax Collector		~~4500~~ plus fees 6000
Treasurer		~~6000~~ 8000
Auditor		150
Moderator		150
School Committee	Chairman	180
	Others	150
APPOINTED OFFICIALS		
Accounting Officer		6000
Veterans Agent		550
Selectmen's Secretary		2500
Assessor's Secretary		975
Clerk, Bd. Registrars		60
Building Inspector		3500
Wiring , Plumbing & Sanitation Inspectors		15/inpsection
Election Workers		5.25/hour
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		
Grade1A		14.03/hour
Grade 1		13.58/hour
Grade 2		12.74/hour
Superintendent		36400
LANDFILL Caretaker		11.53
	Operator	6.75
LIBRARY Director		10.25/hour
	Children's Librarian	6.66/hour
TOWN HALL Custodian		7.50/hour
POLICE CHIEF		11/hour
Officers - Regular		6-10/hour
	Court	15/hour
FIRE CHIEF		825
CEMETERY CARETAKER		2600

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 1999

DESCRIPTION	VOTED F1998	PROPOSED F1999
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Counsel Fees	5000	7500
Moderator	150	150
Selectmen Salary	3200	3200
Selectmen Expense	3500	3500
Selectmen Secretary	2500	2562
Auditor Salary	150	150
Accounting Officer Salary	6000	6150
Accounting Office Expense	900	950
Audit	5625	0
Assessor Salary	3200	3200
Assessor Expense	7750	5405
Assessor Secretary	975	975
Treasurer Salary	6000	6150
Treasurer Expense	3200	3110
Tax Collector Salary	4500	6000
Tax Collector Expense	3100	3100
Town Clerk Salary	4500	5000
Town Clerk Expense	2245	2491
Clerk, Board of Registrars	60	60
Conservation Commission	850	200
Planning Board Expense	200	200
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Administration	2860	2860
Highway Salaries	114000	116500
Holiday Pay	3874	4082
Vacation Pay	3841	4562
Bridges & Railings	500	500
Highway Materials	50000	50000
Road Machinery	20000	20000
Road Machinery Fuel	10800	10800
Snow Removal	40000	42000
Road Machinery Buildings	3900	4100
Pickup (Article 12)		30000
Snowplow (Article 13)		7000
Highway Office (Article 14)		6700
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES		
Hampshire Regional HS (Article 4)	535000	527513
Vocational (Article 6)	129190	173477

Elementary School (Article 5)	682349	735778
School Choice		6000
School Committee Salary	480	480
Library	19190	33540
VETERANS		
Veterans Expense	100	100
Veterans Agent Salary	550	550
Memorial Day	100	100
Cultural Council (Article 16		500
CEMETERIES		
Cemetery Salary	2600	2900
PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROP		
Police Department	25000	27000
Constable	1	1
Fire Chief	825	825
Fire Department	7000	8000
Emergency Medical Services	6000	5200
Inspector Salary	6300	6300
Civil Defense	1	1
Animal Inspector	0	500
Dog Officer	1	1
HEALTH & SANITATION		
Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop.(Art. 9)	4648	4648
Board of Health Salary	5400	3900
Board of Health Expense	14783	24302
Landfill Closure(Articles 17 & 18)	17500	Borrowing
DEBT & INTEREST		
Interest Short Term Debt	1	1
UNCLASSIFIED		
Insurance & Bonds	30000	31000
Town Offices	11700	12100
Council on Aging	1000	1000
Recreation	1000	1000
Historical	200	200
County Retirement	38578	39721
Unemployment (Article 8)	6500	7600
Group Insurance	68000	68000
Medicare	5500	6000
Land Damage	1	1
Reserve Fund	5000	5000
Stabilization (Article 19)	17500	10000
TOTAL	1955378	2131436

ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT
MAY 9, 1998

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectmen.

ARTICLE 3: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L. which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 1999, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto. $527,513.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto. $720,778.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school expenses, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts. $7,600

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Westhampton's share of expenses of continued participation in the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to rescind $962.00 of debt authorized October 2, 1989 for construction of the new elementary school, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds, due to the town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, voted in the Acts of 1997, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12: to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, authorize the Treasurer, with approval of the Selectmen, to borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for a pick-up truck for the Highway Department, or take any other action in relation thereto. $30,750

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for a snow plow for the Highway Department, or take any other action in relation thereto. ~~$30,750~~ $7000

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to construct an office at the Highway Garage, or taken any other action in relation thereto. $6700

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to donate a parcel of land to the Westhampton Congregational Church, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to the Cultural Council to be matched by the State, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for capping of the landfill, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for a transfer station, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

NOTE: This is a preliminary list of the articles for the Annual Town meeting; it is subject to change and/or additions. The final warrant will be posted at least seven days before the Annual Meeting, May 9th.

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.